



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary
JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 8, 2008

Mr. Timothy E. Eastep, Manager
Environment, Land & Water
Chino Mines Company
P.O. Box 7, 210 Cortez Avenue
Hurley, New Mexico 88043

RE: Issuance of the Ecological Risk Assessment
Smelter and Tailing Soils Investigation Unit (S/TSIU)
Chino Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)

Dear Mr. Eastep:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has completed the final Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the S/TSIU which addresses comments provided by Chino Mines Company and other stakeholders. Copies of the final ERA were provided to Chino Mines Company, other stakeholders and are also available to the public at the NMED Santa Fe Office as well as at the three local repositories located at the Silver City Public Library, Bayard Public Library and Miller Library at Western New Mexico University.

The final ERA, along with the Human Health Risk Assessment, will be used to establish the pre-Feasibility Study Remedial Action Criteria for the S/TSIU.

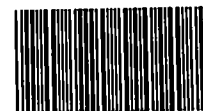
If you have any questions, please contact me at 388-1934.

Sincerely,

Phil Harrigan, Chino AOC Project Manager
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Silver City Field Office

cc: Mary Ann Menetrey, NMED
Jerry Schoeppner, NMED
Mark Purcell, USEPA
Mark Lewis, NewFields Boulder
Joe Allen, New Fields Boulder
Russ MacRae, USFW
Rachel Jankowitz, NMGF

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